Number of people below Poverty Line

†1120. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

the total number of people Below Poverty Line in the country after the Tenth Five Year Plan;

the total reduction in the number of people Below Poverty Line likely to be realized after the Tenth Five Year Plan in the country;

whether most of the people Below Poverty Line are in States like Orissa, Jharkhand, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh; and

whether Government is considering any special scheme for reducing the number of poor in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission estimates the percentage and number of people Below Poverty Line at National and State level from the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years according to the Expert Group Methodology. The Tenth Five Year Plan ends in 2006-07. The latest estimates of poverty are available for the year 2004-05 (estimated from the NSS consumer expenditure data of the 61 st Round). As such, the estimate of the number of people living below the poverty line in the country after the Tenth Five Year Plan is not available. The total reduction in the number of people below poverty line likely to be realized after the Tenth Five Year Plan in the country has not been estimated.

(c) and (d) As per the latest estimate of poverty available for the year 2004-05, out of the 3017.2 lakh persons living below the poverty line in the country, 1254.1 lakh live in Orissa, Jharkhand, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

The Government has adopted a three pronged strategy for reducing poverty; (i) acceleration of economic growth with a focus on sectors which are employment intensive; (ii) human and social development through provision of basic minimum services; and (iii) direct attack on poverty through employment and income generating programmes and asset building for the poor. A number of programmes/schemes have been introduced by the Govenunent from time to time to improve the conditions of the people living below the poverty line in rural and urban areas in the country, including Orissa. Jharkhand, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

Unsolicited calls by sales promoters

1121 SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that Government has received complaints against unsolicited calls being made at odd hours by sales promoters;

if so, the details thereof; and

the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to stop this menace?

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†Original notice of the question was teceived in Hindi.